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proposed drawing changes to Figure 1 in the form of red-inked originals.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the drawing correction.

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because of informalities.

Applicant has amended the specification to remove informalities. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the objection.

Applicant has amended the claims, particularly to overcome the Examiner's rejection of indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to more clearly distinguish the invention from the prior art cited. The Examiner initially rejected Claims 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claims 11, 16, 17, 19 and 20 to particularly point out and distinctly claim, in full, clear, concise and exact terms, the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention.

The Examiner rejected Claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Smith et al. in view of Stewart. Smith discloses a power management system for a portable computer system that uses a software routine to continually monitor various units in the computer system and to remove power or clock signals from these units when these units are not needed and/or are not currently in use. The software routine is not a virtual device driver. Stewart also discloses power management for a portable computer that uses a dedicated power management microcontroller monitors the activity of various I/O devices. If a particular device has been inactive for a preselected period of time, the power control system performs operations necessary to cause at least one device to enter a reduced power consumption state. As with Smith, Stewart does not disclose using a virtual device driver for power control. Therefore, because the combination of Smith and Stewart do not teach, mention or disclose the use of virtual device drivers to perform power control, the present invention as claimed would not have been obvious in view of Smith and Stewart.

The Examiner rejected Claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Smith and Stewart and further in view of Kardach et al. Kardach does not disclose the use of virtual device drivers to provide power control over devices. Thus, for the same reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 11 and 12, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is not obvious in view of the combination of Smith, Stewart and Kardach.

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The Examiner rejected Claims 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Smith and Stewart and further in view of Kardach and Mattox. Kardach and Mattox do not disclose the use of virtual device drivers to provide power control over devices. Thus, for the same reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 11 and 12, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is not obvious in view of the combination of Smith, Stewart, Kardach and Mattox.

Claims 21-35 have been added. Claim 21 and 29 are independent claims, while the remaining added claims are dependent, directly or indirectly, on Claims 21 and 29. Claim 21 is for a computer system. Claim 29 is a method claim for control an I/O device. Applicant respectfully submits that for the same reasons discussed above, Claims 21-35 are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and §103 have been overcome by the amendments and the remarks and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that Claims 1-10, Claims 11-20 as amended and Claims 21-35 as added are now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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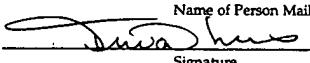
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